

## REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are currently pending in the application. Claims 21-35 have been withdrawn from consideration. New claims 36-41 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,103,349 (Matsumoto) in view of Japanese Patent Document No. 10252833 (Japan '833). Claims 3-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Matsumoto in view of Japan '833, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,997,994, to Andrews et al (Andrews). Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-20 and allowance of the case are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Charles for the courtesies extended him at the interview on July 16, 2003. During the interview, claim 1, as amended herein, was discussed. The Examiner agreed that claim 1, as so amended, would patentably distinguish over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-20 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further structural detail to further distinguish over the cited art.

Claim 36 recites a method of providing a mark on a power transmission belt having a body with a length, exposed laterally spaced side surfaces, and a cushion rubber layer in which at least one load carrying member is embedded. The method includes the step of providing a mark on at least one of the laterally spaced side surfaces by inscribing the mark through the at least one laterally spaced side surface into the at least one load carrying cord.

Matsumoto does not teach or suggest inscribing a mark in such a manner that a side surface of a belt is altered. In paragraph 4 of the Action, the Examiner stated "Matsumoto does not disclose the side surface of the belt is altered". Matsumoto

additionally teaches the application of the mark only on regions of the belt not intended to contact a cooperating a pulley during use (see col. 1, lines 65 through col. 2, line 6). Matsumoto expressly teaches only the use of printing "or other methods" which are not specifically defined (see col. 3, lines 49-51).

In each embodiment shown in Matsumoto, a separate layer is applied to the side surface of the belt to facilitate formation of the mark. Matsumoto does not teach or suggest any inscription which would penetrate the belt side surface.

By reason of providing the mark in regions that do not contact a cooperating pulley, Matsumoto is not concerned with creating a durable mark. Hence, presumably Matsumoto is of the opinion that the printed mark would suffice to achieve the stated ends in the Matsumoto patent.

Further, the absence of any alteration of the side surfaces of a belt, including load carrying members, suggests that the industry has strayed away from doing anything that might affect the integrity of the belt. The applicant has determined that an inscription to the depth in the stated range of 0.1 to 1 mm allows a highly durable mark to be formed without adversely affecting the operating characteristics, or the life, of the belt.

Accordingly, claim 36 is believed allowable.

Claim 37 depends from claim 36 and more specifically characterizes the step of inscribing as forming a depression to a depth of 0.1 to 1 mm and further recites the step of directing a material into the depression to visually contrast with the at least one laterally spaced side surface.

The Examiner relies upon Andrews for the teaching of the depth of the inscription and the provision of a contrasting material in the depression formed by the inscription.

Andrews' marking is shown only on a cable which is in a static environment. It is respectfully submitted that translating the teachings relative to an article in a static environment to a dynamic environment is not obvious or appropriate.

Claim 38 recites a method of providing a mark on a power transmission belt having a body with a length and exposed laterally spaced side surfaces. The method employs the step of altering at least one of the laterally spaced side surfaces by forming an informational mark directly on the at least one laterally spaced side surface by an inscribing process to a depth of 0.1 to 1 mm.

As described with respect to claim 36, the prior art does not teach or suggest altering, as by inscription, the side surface of a belt. Accordingly, claim 38 is believed allowable.

Claim 39 depends from claim 38 and, similarly to claim 37, includes the step of directing a material into the depression formed by the inscription.

Claim 40 corresponds to claim 8, in independent form. As noted above, the prior art does not teach or suggest inscription to a depth of 0.1 to 1 mm to form a depression in which a material is directed.

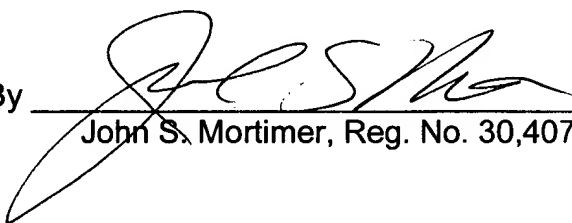
Claim 41 recites a method of providing a mark on a power transmission belt having a body with a length, exposed laterally spaced side surfaces, a cushion rubber layer within which at least one load carrying member is embedded, and a tension layer. The method comprises the step of altering at least one of the laterally spaced side surfaces by forming an informational mark directly on the at least one laterally spaced side surface by an inscribing process to a depth of 0.11 to 1 mm, so that at least a part of the mark is formed on the at least one laterally spaced side surface in the tension layer.

As discussed during the interview, Matsumoto does not teach or suggest the provision of any part of a mark on a tension layer.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-20, consideration of new claims 36-41, and allowance of the case are requested.

The extra claim fee of \$168.00 is enclosed. Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

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